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SECRET

Action

Classification Control: 5425
EUR Rec'd: October 8, 1959
5:08 P.M.

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FROM: Berlin

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 353, October 8, 8 p.m. (SECTION ONE OF TWO)

RMR

SENT DEPARTMENT 353, REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 101,
NIACT BONN 311, LONDON 88, PARIS 78.

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Reference : Our telegram 351 to Department, 309 to Bonn.

Following is report on 4-hour Commandants' meeting today.
Same persons present as at yesterday's meeting.

Commandants reviewed situation as of this morning (and still obtaining as of 3 p.m.). Number of GDR flags flying over S-Bahn stations and installations West Berlin 117, approximately same as yesterday; few less today in British sector, few more in American sector. Since yesterday evening six GDR flags pulled down by West Berliners with no interference.

Acting US Commandant strongly urged that in view no Soviet action on Commandants message to General Zakarov it was incumbent on Commandant to authorize resumption police action removing flags before end of day. British and French commandants made very clear they could take no such action without express governmental permission. French indicated instructions emphasized risks of provoking clashes and his position was to continue forbid police action except when necessary maintain law and order.

Several hours later, after POLAD session with Senator Lipschitz, who had been recalled Berlin by Brandt last night, Commandants unanimously agreed on following two decisions:

Correction made

by RMR

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Authority NND 87748

BG NARA Date 10/16/01

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CLASSIFIED FILE

1. Chairman British Commandant will seek appointment with Russian Commandant today to emphasize seriousness situation and to urge in common interest prompt favorable action Commandants' message. Main object this call is to smoke out Russian intentions.

2. Commandants will recommend to their governments they be authorized instruct police take action remove flags--tomorrow at the latest in event Soviets not taken satisfactory action. Plan of police action based on Lipschitz recommendations with a few modifications made by Commandants. Details of Lipschitz plan which has Brandt approval follow:

Lipschitz defined S-Bahn real property as being in three categories:

Zone 1-- Exterior which can be seen from street of S-Bahn buildings which are contiguous with street. In addition to side of building facing on street, two sides of building at right angles to street and roof are considered to be in "Zone 1."

Zone 2-- Rear of buildings with public traffic--i.e., station platforms--and interior of buildings traversed by public--i.e., station waiting rooms and shopping arcades.

Zone 3-- Buildings not traversed by public--i.e., work shops, switchhouses, etc.

Lipschitz proposed that in Zones 1 and 2 police remove all flags (police currently empowered remove flags Zone 1 and no flags presently in Zone 1). Re Zone 3, police to remove those flags deemed to be especial provocation, i.e., flags flown on high Zone 3 buildings which are clearly visible to a wide surrounding area. In discussing Zone 3 action, Lipschitz remarked these flags are physically the most difficult to remove, and Tuesday night's police action demonstrated that resistance centered almost exclusively at Zone 3 buildings.

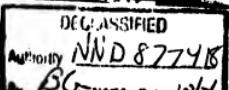
Lipschitz said it important for morale that proposed police action take place under aegis of allied authorities. To this end he proposed that allied MP's accompany each police squad and be present during operations, though taking no part in them.

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Note: Read by Mr. Hillenbrand (GEN) 6 PM. 10-8-59; CWO-JRL.



TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Correction Issued

25 10/9/59 12:55 a.m.

Control: 5426

Rec'd: OCTOBER 8, 1959

8:16 PM

STATE

12

FROM: BERLIN - CORRECTED COPY

S/P

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 353, OCTOBER 8, 8 PM (SECTION TWO OF TWO)

NIACT.

SENT DEPARTMENT 353; REPEATED INFORMATION MOSCOW 101,
NIACT BONN 311, LONDON 88, PARIS 78

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LIPSCHITZ STATED THAT FLAG REMOVAL OPERATION EXPECTED TAKE ONE HOUR TO ACCOMPLISH. IF DURING THAT TIME COMMUNISTS USE OF S-BAHN AND OTHER TRAINS TO CONVEY GOON SQUADS TO SCENE OF ACTION REACHED LARGE PROPORTIONS, WEST BERLIN AUTHORITIES WOULD CLOSE ALL SECTOR BORDER RAIL LINES. THERE ARE SIX S-BAHN (AND RAIL) LINES RUNNING THROUGH WEST BERLIN AND EIGHTY ODD S-BAHN STATIONS. HE ENVISIONED NORMAL TASK FORCE AS 8 TO 10 POLICE AND 2 MP'S. HE SAID OPERATION COULD BE MOUNTED ON 2 TO 3 HOURS' NOTICE AND SHOULD TAKE PLACE BETWEEN 8:30 AM AND 4 PM-- TO AVOID RUSH HOUR AND TO HAVE BENEFIT OF DAYLIGHT, WHICH TECHNICALLY MADE OPERATIONS EASIER AND PSYCHOLOGICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS BECAUSE OPERATIONS WOULD BE CLEARLY OBSERVABLE.

SINCE GDR TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS EXPECTED LAST THROUGH SUNDAY EVENING LIPSCHITZ WOULD STATION POLICE PATROLS THROUGH SUNDAY EVENING AT S-BAHN BUILDINGS WHERE FLAGS REMOVED. HE FURTHER DESIRED ALLIED MP PARTICIPATE THESE PATROLS.

IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS AS TO WHAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND IN EVENT THAT AFTER POLICE PATROLS TERMINATED SUNDAY EVENING GDR FLAGS WERE REHOISTED ON S-BAHN STATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS, LIPSCHITZ MADE IN SUBSTANCE FOLLOWING REPLY: BY FLYING GDR FLAGS ON S-BAHN BUILDINGS COMMUNISTS HAVE COMMITTED PROVOCATION WHICH WEST BERLIN GOVERNMENT TRIED TO MEET TUESDAY EVENING AND FAILED; POLICE MUST NOW FINISH JOB. IF AFTER SUNDAY EVENING FLAGS ARE REHOISTED THIS WILL REPRESENT AN EVEN MORE SERIOUS PROVOCATION

SINCE GDR

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-2- 353, OCTOBER 8, 8 PM, FROM BERLIN

SINCE GDR FLAGS WILL HAVE COME DOWN IN EAST BERLIN AND WILL REMAIN UP ONLY IN WEST BERLIN. A PROVOCATION OF SUCH SERIOUSNESS COULD ONLY BE DEALT WITH AT HIGH GOVERNMENT LEVEL BETWEEN THE ALLIES AND THE SOVIET UNION.

IN COMMENDING LIPSCHITZ' PLAN TO THEIR GOVERNMENTS COMMANDANTS AGREED AMEND PLAN AS FOLLOWS AND TO SO INFORM LIPSCHITZ:

1. SUGGESTED USE OF MP'S WOULD COMPLICATE PROBLEM FOR COMMANDANTS AND PROBABLY DELAY DECISION. USE OF MP'S NOT ESSENTIAL FOR OPERATION. THEREFORE PLAN SHOULD DROP THIS ASPECT. THIS IN NO WAY AFFECTS STANDING AK POLICY ALLIES TO COME TO ASSISTANCE POLICE IN SITUATIONS POLICE CAN NO LONGER HANDLE.
2. NO "ZONE 3" OPERATIONS FOR PRESENT. BRITISH POLAD TO REQUEST LIPSCHITZ TODAY TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS BY THIS EVENING WITH HIS PLAN OF OPERATIONS SO THAT ALLIED MILITARY AUTHORITIES CAN IMMEDIATELY REVIEW THEM FOR SOUNDNESS. FOR EXAMPLE, IS POLICE STRENGTH ADEQUATE TO CONDUCT OPERATIONS AT 87 S-BAHN STATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY?

COMMANDANTS AGREED RECOMMEND GOVERNMENTS INSTRUCT SOONEST SO THAT PLAN CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TOMORROW.

IF OUR PRESTIGE IN EAST AS WELL AS WEST--AND CONFIDENCE OF BERLINERS--ARE NOT TO BE MOST ADVERSELY AFFECTED, BELIEVE IMPERATIVE OBTAIN THREE-POWER AGREEMENT TO ACTION RECOMMENDED WHILE FRENCH COMMANDANT AGREED WITH RECOMMENDATIONS, HE MADE IT VERY CLEAR HE DOUBTED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD GO ALONG. ALSO MENTIONED AMBASSADOR IN BONN DID NOT APPROVE POLICE ACTION OTHER THAN AS REQUIRED MAINTAIN ORDER. BRITISH REVEALED AMBASSADOR IN BONN SUPPORTS FORTHRIGHT ACTION BUT NOT TOO OPTIMISTIC FOREIGN OFFICE ACTION IN VIEW BRITISH ELECTIONS. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES IF TIME PERMITS I SUGGEST STRONG APPROACH BE MADE TO FRENCH AND BRITISH IN WASHINGTON, PARIS AND LONDON TO URGE THEIR CONCURRENCE.

THIS MESSAGE SENT USAREUR AND CINCEUR THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS.

GENERAL HAMLETT RETURNED BERLIN THIS AFTERNOON AND STRONGLY SUPPORTS RECOMMENDATIONS THIS MESSAGE.

EWH/21

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LIGHTNING

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